



GUIDON



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Quarterly Magazine of the Texas State Guard

Winter 2012

CPL Gutierrez, SSGT Lewis Named Enlisted Members of the Year

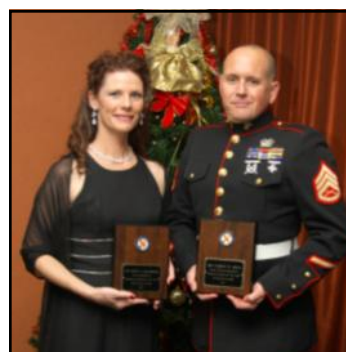


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THE GUIDON

Winter 2012

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On the Cover - CPL Peggy Gutierrez and SSGT Robert Lewis were Named Junior and Senior Enlisted Members of the Year at the 2011 TXSG Christmas gala.

Photo by SGM Steven Gamboa

Leadership Message

Join Us in Telling Our TXSG Story

Colleagues:

In 1775, the newly appointed General George Washington instructed his officers to "impress upon the mind of every man, from the first to the lowest, the importance of the cause, and what it is they are contending for."

In many ways that's what we attempt to do with THE GUIDON. You can see the importance of our cause and the passion and professionalism our members bring to their duties in the pages that follow.



It is the privilege of those of us on the staff of THE GUIDON and in the Texas State Guard public affairs community to report on the successes and accomplishments of the men and women of the Texas State Guard in numerous communities across our great state. As you will read in this publication, which is now one year old, there is a lot going on and

much to be proud about.

There are also many examples in this issue of the heart of the Texas State Guard and the caring nature of our members, with numerous holiday toy drives, feeding the homeless, and caring for those in our own family.

I encourage you to share these stories with your families, with your friends and colleagues, and with your employer and coworkers.

Our mission in public affairs is to keep the citizens of Texas and the members of the Texas State Guard, the state leadership, and the Texas Military Forces informed of our activities in order to establish the conditions that lead to confidence in the Texas State Guard and its readiness to conduct operations as assigned. That's a long statement that essentially says "tell the Texas State Guard story." We are proud to do so and one quick read through this issue tells you why.

As we focus on the year ahead I offer the following quote from historian Charles Kendall Adams....."No one ever attains very eminent success by simply doing what is required of him; it is the amount and excellence of what is over and above the required that determines the greatness of ultimate distinction."

Keep up the good work.

COL Robert Hasting
Chief, Public Affairs, TXSG

THE GUIDON

A Texas State Guard Publication



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Commander in Chief

Governor Rick Perry

Adjutant General of Texas

Maj Gen John Nichols

Commander, Texas State Guard

MG Raymond C. Peters

Chief, Public Affairs, Texas State Guard

COL Robert T. Hastings

Guidon Editor-in-Chief

SSgt John H. Crowder

Public Affairs Staff

1LT Joy Schoffler
SGM Steven Gamboa
SFC Mitchell Hail
SPC Shelby Plasek

Photo Editor

SSG Timothy Pruitt

Contributors

COL Robert Morecook	WO1 Bill Mico
COL David Erinakes	WO1 Fred San Roman
MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan	WO1 James Smith
Chaplin (MAJ) David Fair	SSG Mark Bomblatus
MAJ Ray Feagins	SSgt Rick Wilkins
MAJ Michael Kelley	SrA Andrea Seeds
CPT Karl Gallagher	PFC Victor Segura
CPT Esperanza Meza	PFC David Steward
1LT George Owens	PFC Whitney Tilson
2LT Monica Reyna	SN Kate Calidonna-Whitbey
ENS Frank Hooton	Les Hall
WO1 Janet Schmelzer	

Texas State Guard

Camp Mabry
2200 West 35th Street
Austin, Texas 78763

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CPL Peggy Gutierrez, SSGT Robert Lewis Garner Enlisted Member of the Year Honors

CPL Gutierrez Top Graduate In BOT Class; Begins OCS

**Story by COL Robert Hastings
Public Affairs Chief, TXSG**

CAMP MABRY, Texas-- The Texas State Guard has announced its outstanding enlisted members of the year.

Corporal Peggy Gutierrez, a civil affairs specialist with the 4th Civil Affairs Regiment in Denton and Staff Sergeant Robert Lewis, an NCO with the Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) in Dallas have been selected as the Texas State Guard (TXSG) Junior Enlisted and Senior Enlisted Members of the Year.

CPL Gutierrez and SSGT Lewis were recognized by TXSG Commanding General Major General Ray Peters during ceremonies at the annual holiday dinner Dec. 10th. "These two individuals represent what is best about the Texas State Guard and Texas Military Forces," said MG Peters. "They are dedicated professionals who give their all for their fellow Texans. I'm proud to serve with them."



MG Raymond Peters (left) looks on as Texas Adjutant General Maj Gen John Nichols (right) congratulates CPL Peggy Gutierrez (center) on her selection as Junior Enlisted Member of the Year for 2011.
Photo by SGM Steven Gamboa



MG Raymond Peters (left) congratulates SSGT Robert Lewis (center) on his selection as Senior Enlisted Member of the Year for 2011 as Texas Adjutant General Maj Gen John Nichols (right) looks on.
Photo by SGM Steven Gamboa

CPL Gutierrez has been a member of the TXSG for about one year. During that time she was recognized as the Honor Graduate of her Basic Orientation Course, earned the Military Emergency Management Specialist qualification, and was selected for Officer Candidate School.

"CPL Gutierrez's participation and commitment to the Texas State Guard is unparalleled," said Colonel Howard Palmer, commander of the 4th Civil Affairs Regiment. "CPL Gutierrez has distinguished herself as both an exemplary soldier and a selfless community servant and leader. She has brought an unequalled drive to excel to the 4th Regiment. CPL Gutierrez hit the ground running, and hasn't slowed down yet."

SSGT Lewis has served in a number of key leadership roles including Operations Officer, Logistics NCO, training instructor and member of the TXSG Joint Color Guard.

"SSGT Lewis has been and continues to be an inspiration to the entire Maritime Regiment," said Brigadier General Robert Bodisch, TMAR commander. "His determined and gifted leadership, dedication and military bearing combined with his talent as an instructor place him above all others. SSGT Lewis is a role model to us all."



A literal mountain of toys collected at the Dallas Children's Charity Ball. The 19th Regiment provided security for the black-tie event.

19th Regiment Provides Security for Dallas Children's Charity Ball

**Story and photo by CPT Esperanza Meza
19th REGT Public Affairs Officer**

DALLAS - With a mountain of toys growing by the hour, more than 100 Soldiers from the 19th Civil Affairs Regiment maintained safety at the largest black-tie charity event held in Dallas.

The annual Dallas Children's Charity Ball held on Nov. 19 was attended by more than 12,000 individuals, with many delivering toys for under-privileged children as part of their admission.

Since 2006, the 19th Regiment has participated in this charitable event providing for the safety and security of patrons, along with officers from the Dallas Police Department and the Texas Department of Public Safety. The 19th Regiment is known for its high caliber of planning and execution of crowd control and safety.

The 19th Regiment's work was praised by Marc Lorange, president of the Dallas Children's Charity, in a letter to regimental commander Colonel David Erinakes.

He said the TXSG Soldiers "helped to ensure the safety of our guests through both the personal effort of each guardsman and through a unified coordination with Dallas Police Department personnel, officers from the Texas Department of Safety, and all other volunteer organizations during the Ball."

TXSG personnel were placed strategically throughout the event venue with communication equipment, assisting crowd movements and ensuring

choke points -- such as escalators -- did not create dangerous situations.

TXSG soldiers provided 868 man-hours of service at the event, which collected some 8,300 toys that were eventually distributed to more than 3,000 children.

"Your service at our charity function enables enormous fiscal savings to be passed on to thousands of children in North Texas, who really need our help during the holidays," added Lorange. "In the spirit of the emblem that represents your Regiment, when we need to call in the cavalry, you guys always lead the charge."

The Dallas Children's Charity Ball is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization that hosts fundraising events throughout the year for children's charities in the North Texas community.



SGT Bates (Foreground) directs guest to the smoking area while SPC Lewis (ACUs in background) secures entry way.

3rd Annual 'Young Heroes of the Guard' Toy Drive Brings Smiles and Laughter to Hospitalized Kids in Dallas/Ft. Worth

**Story by WO1 Janet Schmelzer
4th REGT Public Affairs Officer**

FT. WORTH, Texas – For the third consecutive year, 4th Regiment Chaplain Captain David Fish has spearheaded the "Young Heroes of the Guard" toy drive in North Texas to benefit ill and injured children who must spend Christmas in the hospital.

Soldiers from the 4th Regiment delivered a record 2,800 toys on Dec. 17 to children in two hospitals, Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth and Our Children's House at Baylor Hospital in Dallas.

Beginning in early November, 4th Regiment soldiers began talking with employers, businesses, city offices, churches, and many other places to host a "Young Heroes of the Guard" toy collection site. Some local businesses made the "Young Heroes of the Guard" toy drive their annual charity project. More than 50 collection sites were established throughout the DFW metroplex.

Sergeant Steven Hilliard contacted Chris Lemond at Wingstop Restaurants' corporate headquarters in Richardson about the toy drive. Wingstop selected the "Young Heroes of the Guard" as its annual charity. They provided 430 toys and donated \$500 to the 4th Regiment to assist with the project. Wingstop's Lemond commented that "charitable works go beyond the toy drive throughout the year."

SGT Hilliard was thrilled by the generosity Wingstop displayed. "We are so fortunate to have Wingstop joining our toy drive and helping us spread

cheer to so many children."

Warrant Officer John Gorena contacted First Choice Power in Lewisville regarding the toy drive. As a result, First Choice employees donated more than 200 toys. "We are proud to support the Texas State Guard and bring the holidays to kids who need a little extra holiday spirit," said Lake Scalise, manager of First Choice Power in Lewisville. WO1 Gorena commented that "these toys from First Choice Power will bring comfort and joy to many children who cannot be home for the holidays."

Chaplain CPT Fish persuaded the CVS Pharmacy chain to allow collection barrels in 17 of their stores in the DFW metroplex. "We are very grateful to the participation of the CVS Pharmacy stores, their employees, and customers who are giving children in several hospitals a very happy holiday," Chaplain CPT Fish said.

Before they could be delivered, the donated toys were brought to the Randol Mill Armory in Arlington to be sorted into age groups. Chaplain CPT Fish was overwhelmed by the generosity of the public. "We had so many toys, books, and games that we could have filled up three Blackhawk helicopters," Chaplain CPT Fish exclaimed.

On Dec. 17, more than 100 soldiers from the 4th Regiment went to Cooks Children's Hospital with boxes full of toys. Soldiers loaded hospital carts with toys and other gifts and moved through the hospital in small teams accompanied by hospital staff.

When soldiers decked in Santa hats entered the hospital rooms bear-

ing gifts, the children's eyes lit up. To see the children so happy, smiling and laughing made 4th Regiment soldiers humbled and forever changed.

"These youngsters are the real heroes. Their bravery and courage have touched every one of us," commented Corporal Angelyn Ogle. "The toy drive delivery is my favorite drill of the entire year," CPL Ogle continued. She knows first-hand the challenges that parents and children face when a child is in the hospital. CPL Ogle's daughter Scotlyn was a patient at Cooks Children's Hospital for surgery and post-operative complications a few years ago.

The soldiers gave at least one toy to every child and toys were given to patient's siblings if they were there visiting. Parents were given cards wishing them and their child a happy holiday season.

After finishing at Cook Children's Hospital, the 4th Regiment headed to Our Children's House at Baylor Hospital in Dallas for the second round of gift giving. Surplus toys were given to the respective hospitals for use throughout the coming year.

4th Regiment Chaplain LTC Jerald Garner is leading the "Young Heroes of the Guard" toy drive project for the entire state. "We want every part of the Guard to join in this toy drive and bring joy and happiness to children all over Texas," Chaplain Garner stated.

If your unit is interested in participating in the "Young Heroes of the Guard" toy drive for 2012, you can email Chaplain Garner at Jerald.Garner@txsg.state.tx.us for more information.



Members of the 4th Regiment gather at Cook Children's Hospital after distributing gifts to the children. Photo by PFC Victor Segura

19th Regiment Parsons' Brigade Celebrates 150 Years of Service

**Story by COL David Erinakes
and MAJ Ray Feagins**

DALLAS - Spanning nearly 150 years, the Parsons' Brigade – today the Texas State Guard's 19th Regiment – has been serving the people of Texas in war and peace.

Originally organized in the autumn of 1862 under the command of Colonel William Henry Parsons, the Parsons' Brigade became the cavalry for the Army of the Trans-Mississippi.

During the Civil War the Parsons' Brigade earned the reputation as one of the finest mounted units serving in the Trans-Mississippi Department. The brigade, which included the 19th Regiment, took part in almost 50 battles, although most were too small to rate a name. Much of the brigade's reputation resulted from the outstanding leadership of COL Parsons and his men.

Amazingly, the brigade rarely mustered in full at any single place; instead, the troops generally fought by detachments or regiments.

When the 1941 Defense Act authorized state defense forces, the 19th, 29th, 35th and 51st Battalions in Northeast Texas were activated as the Texas Defense Guard. Those units were reorganized following World War II and designated as the 6th Regiment, which included an ROTC section.

A decade later, it was redesignated again as the 1st Military Defense Group. In 1965 it was renamed the 102nd Military Police Battalion. In 1984 the unit was designated the 9th Military Police Group. When the Texas



A full-size replica of the original 19th Texas Cavalry Regiment's battle flag was recently presented to Col. David Erinakes by his executive officer, Lt. Col. Barry Hobbs, a descendent of one of the Civil War era unit's men. The detailed and hand-stitched replica was created by 1st Sgt. Daniel Dzivi, based on his research and work with an original 19th Regiment battle flag.
Photo by CPT Esperanza Meza

State Guard reorganized on July 1, 1993, elements of the 7th and 9th Military Police Groups were combined and designated as the 19th Brigade and the name Parsons' Brigade was reclaimed for the unit.

The 19th did not have time to look long at their lineage. In April of 1994, a class F4 tornado ravaged the town of Lancaster. The Soldiers of the 19th immediately stepped in to provide assistance with security and search teams.

But it was a decade later when the tempo for the 19th hit the stride for which its Soldiers are now accustomed. On Feb. 1, 2003, the US Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas. The Soldiers of the 19th leapt into action, aiding in the search and recovery mission. More than 2,000 debris fields were found from Nacogdoches to Arkansas and Louisiana, with soldiers from the 19th volunteering in key roles.

An onslaught on hurricanes

followed for the next four years, challenging the 19th and the entire TXSG. During those storms, the 19th provided Shelter Management and Point of Distribution (POD) operations.

During Hurricane Rita alone, the 19th supported relief operations in nine counties.

From 2004's Ivan to 2010's Alex, the 19th has been involved in the relief operations of every storm striking the coast.

The work of the 19th extends beyond bad weather. Several troops assigned to the 19th are actively involved in Operation Border Star, the state-led border security program resulting in a decrease in violent crime in border counties.

Although the organization and missions may have changed over the years the Parson's Brigade still proudly serves the people of Texas.

Colonel Erinakes is the 19th Regiment's commander. Major Feagins is the S4 and PAO for the 19th Regiment.

1st Regiment Honors Three Retiring Members at Fourth Annual Dining Out

COL Gonzalez, LTC Mabs, and 1SG Hoyos Represent 100 Years of Military Service

**Story by MAJ Mitchell Kelley
1st Battalion Commander, 1st REGT**

It was a time to honor tradition but also a time to celebrate as members of the 1st Civil Affairs Regiment held its Fourth Annual Dining Out on Dec. 10 in San Antonio.

A formal dinner function for members of a military organization or unit, the traditional Dining Out, provided an occasion for soldiers and their guests to gather in an atmosphere of camaraderie, good fellowship, fun and social rapport.

The evening's event was hosted by Colonel Chuck Brewton, 1st Regiment commander. Also present were soldiers representing each of Regiment's three battalions as well as the Quick Response Team, formally attired to partake and celebrate in this special occasion.

"It was great to bring everyone together and provide them with the opportunity to continue a military tradition that some Soldiers never get to experience," said COL Brewton. "Some people think it is all about the 'grog bowl', it is more than that; it is the camara-

derie and special bond among the members."

Like most formal events, the Dining Out can be a little nerve racking, as you begin to prepare for them. This year's preparations actually began in March when the preliminary contacts with the hosting hotel were signed.

"Setting up your uniform, etc., can be a bit overwhelming as no one wants to be singled out and sent to the grog bowl" said Major Mitchell Kelley, 1st Battalion commander, and President of the Mess for this year's party. "But once you are there, and among friends enjoying time honored traditions and camaraderie, they are a blast."

The evening's event culminated with COL Brewton presenting Colonel Raul Gonzalez, Lieutenant Colonel David Mabs, and First Sergeant Francisco Hoyos each with the traditional 1st Regiment retirement gift; a hand-decorated statue of an American eagle in full flight.

"In these three individuals represents over 100 combined years of military service to our nation and state. Over the years, their leadership has been instrumental in making the 1st Regiment one of the finest in the Texas State Guard, and each one of these soldiers will be greatly missed," said COL Brewton.



L-R SGT Chip Brewton, US Army, SGT Allison Brewton, USMC (Ret), Connie Brewton and 1st REGT CDR, COL Chuck Brewton
Photo by 2LT Monica Reyna

Christmas Blaze Burns Home, But TMAR Rushes Aid to TXSG Family

**Story by SN Kate Calidonna-Whitby
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

MINERAL WELLS, Texas— TXSG Lieutenant Brian Reagan and his wife Cathryn returned home from a trip to the grocery to find their world turned upside down—their house was on fire.

The Dec. 5 blaze, less than three weeks before Christmas, was an un-welcomed event for the Mineral Wells couple. But before the week was out, TMAR's 3rd Battalion would descend en masse to help them begin to put their lives back together.

"From the outside, everything looked fine, but we smelled the heavy odor of burning plastic," said LT Reagan, Chaplain for the 3rd Battalion.

Once inside, the Reagans found heavy smoke from ceiling to knee level and their six dogs hiding in the family bathtub, terrified, but unhurt.

The fire started from an electrical short in one of the heating elements of the home's built-in cook top. Amazingly, the tile backsplash and vent hood had managed to contain the fire to the area immediately surrounding the cook top.

Based on the smoke damage to the home, fire officials estimate that the fire had burned for more than an hour before LT Reagan, a former fire chief, discovered it and put it out.

The home is owned by the North Oak Church of Christ in Mineral Wells. LT Reagan has pastored there for the past two and a half years.

The home only suffered minor structural damage as a result of the fire, but the smoke damage was extensive, rendering it uninhabitable. And while the home was covered by insurance, the Reagan's personal belongings, which also suffered

smoke damage, were not.

Structural repairs and clean up could not begin until all their possessions had been removed from the structure and cleaned—a monumental task that would have taken the couple a month to accomplish on their own.

That's where TMAR's 3rd Battalion came in.

Drill, already scheduled for Dec. 10, was quickly changed to a deployment disaster exercise, with all hands directed to Mineral Wells to clean, box and store all the contents of the Reagan's home.



TMAR's 3rd BN member PO3 Rich Faltot loads boxes of personal items at the fire damaged home of LT Brian Reagan.
Photo by SN Kate Calidonna-Whitby

"TMAR takes care of its own," Captain Kenneth Rigoulot, 3rd Battalion's commanding officer told his troops before they began. Clean up began at 0800 and by mid-afternoon the job was complete; the house stood empty, ready for repair crews to step in on Dec. 12.

By Dec. 19 the Reagans were permitted to move back

into the house while the remaining repairs continued, a small miracle considering the condition the home was in just two weeks earlier and a blessing for which the couple is incredibly grateful.

"Cathryn and I were both overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and service," said LT Reagan. "It was a huge emotional and morale boost to us. Instead of it taking nearly a month before crews could begin clean-up, we were able to get the process started that Monday after 3rd Battalion's assistance. Financially it saved us kenneling fees, having to find an interim home, and just the general stress that it puts on a family to have to deal with all this normally."

TMAR's 3rd Battalion was glad to be of service so close to home.

LTC G. Mulligan Takes Command of Alamo Medical Response Group

**Story and photo by COL Robert Morecook
Medical Brigade Public Affairs Officer**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Mulligan assumed command of the Alamo Medical Response Group of the Texas Medical Brigade at the group's dining out held in December. Outgoing commander Colonel Michael Champion praised LTC Mulligan as well qualified to take command of the unit that COL Champion had commanded for many years.

LTC Mulligan took command upon receiving the unit guidon when it was passed to him by group First Sergeant David LeCroy. LTC Mulligan acknowledged



LTC Gregory Mulligan returns the guidon of the Alamo MRG to 1SG David LeCroy after assuming command at a December 2011 ceremony. COL James Jorrie officiated at the event. COL Michael Champion was the outgoing commander.

the many achievements of the group in prior years under the capable hands of COL Champion.

LTC Mulligan had previously held a variety of positions in the unit, including executive officer and adjutant.

Alamo Medical Response Group Works to Rescue Fallen Climber

**Story by COL Robert Morecook
Medical Brigade Public Affairs Officer**

FREDERICKSBURG, Texas – A visitor to the Enchanted Rock State Park fell from an unsecured climbing rope approximately 40 feet onto a rocky area



A STARflight air ambulance evacuated the victim of the fall at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. SGT Jamie Slaughter of the Texas Medical Brigade and others treated the victim while waiting for the helicopter to arrive. Photo by SSG Timothy Pruitt

of the park late last year, sustaining injuries to the pelvis, back, and head.

Guardsmen from the TXSG Medical Brigade were drilling in the park that day, along with volunteer fire departments and rescue personnel. Instead of an exercise, a real emergency was the order of the day.

Sergeant Jaime Slaughter (Paramedic) and Ashley Dean (EMT) set out cross-country to the accident site when the report of the injured individual arrived. Guardsmen from the Austin and Fredericksburg Companies, Alamo Medical Response Group, and a local fire department travelled in an off-road vehicle and rendezvoused at the accident scene.

With treatment from the Alamo Medical Response Group (AMRG) Guardsmen and from the fire department the victim was stabilized and remained conscious. He was transported by helicopter to a hospital in San Antonio for further care.

Ms. Dean was visiting the park with her husband Staff Sergeant Roger Dean, a member with SGT Jaime Slaughter of the Austin Company, ARMG.

Lieutenant Colonel Troy Smith, commanding officer of the Austin Company said, "SGT Slaughter is a sharp soldier and we are glad to have him in this unit and in the Medical Brigade."



TMAR Sinks Plane to Foster Realistic Training Exercises

TMAR's 1BN Dive Team conducted a field training exercise last October in Houston. The Dive Team transported and reassembled a small aircraft, floated it to a designated location in the lake and placed it on the bottom in approximately 30 feet of water. The aircraft will be utilized to train and practice search and recovery operations by both TMAR Divers and other public safety diver agencies.

Photo by WO1 Bill Micho

4th Regiment Delivers Toys to Cook Children's Hospital Patients

Two Soldiers from the 4th Regiment spread some Christmas cheer to patients hospitalized over the holidays. SGT Steven Wilson (left) and CPL Jeffrey Garner (right) visit with patient Jacob Beatey, 10. Jacob has a tight grip on a rather large stuffed reindeer from the Young Heroes of the Guard Toy Drive.

Photo by PFC Victor Segura



Tyler Medical Response Group Trains in Helicopter Safety and Operations

The November drill for the Tyler Medical Response Group included a training session in helicopter landing zone preparation and safety. Special instruction in hand signals was provided by CW4 William Carter. Trinity Mother Frances Flight for Life personnel educated soldiers in the operational features of the EC-145 helicopter, emphasizing proper safety measures for personnel operating in or near an emergency landing zone. Flight paramedic Craig Mattingly discusses "live rotor" safety measures with Tyler MRG soldiers.

Photo by 1LT George Owens

436th ASG Teams with 2-149th GSAB To Give Santa Cop Project a Boost

**Story by SSgt Rick Wilkins
Unit Public Affairs Representative**

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas – For the second consecutive year, Airmen from the 436th Air Support Group worked to support the Grand Prairie Police Department's 'Santa Cop' program during the Christmas season. Teaming with the 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), Texas Army National Guard, the 436th worked to collect, warehouse and deliver toys and food to needy families.

Preparations began Nov. 5 when six Airmen arrived at the warehouse to set up toys and food for the families to view and select. Each family was given a Santa sack that they filled with toys and food items.

The warehouse was extremely crowded so Airmen spent the majority of the day sorting, stacking and arranging the toys and food. At the end of the day, the Santa Cop area in the Pollock warehouse was organized and ready for their crew to come and fill the order they had from all the families that requested help.

It was a cold, wet evening on Dec. 15 when the Santa sack delivery began. But before Santa's goodies could be delivered, they had to be loaded. This year Santa's sleighs were 2.5 ton trucks; Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) to be more precise. The LMTV is the replacement for the old "Deuce and a Half" M35 truck series and carries 5,000 lbs. of cargo or soldiers, or in this case goodies from old St. Nick.

There was so much to load that 24 troops were needed, 12 from the TXSG and 12 from the TX Army National Guard. It took five hours to organize, sort and load everything. In addition to the LMTV trucks, 10 U-haul trucks were also required to make all the deliveries.

If you have not ridden in a LMTV you are missing a treat. It's very similar to bull riding.

Grand Prairie police provided an escort for the truck convoy to the fire stations where the toy and food distribution began. The truck assigned to Fire Station No. 9 arrived and the firemen guided the truck into the station. Soldiers and Airmen unloaded all the gifts and food. Local recipients came and collected their Santa sacks and food there at the fire station.

The parents and kids were all very appreciative of the gifts and food they received. The kids really enjoyed the LMTV and the Soldiers from the 2-149th let them on the vehicle as they explained all the features of the huge truck. When the distribution work was

done, the firemen gave the troops a tour of the station, which was state of the art and very impressive.

The Santa Cop mission is hard work, but with the Texas State Guard and the 2-149th involved it was fun and rewarding. Seeing all the families that do not have much -- to see their faces light up and the kids truly happy -- made all the hard work worthwhile.

The 2-149th and the 436th worked hard and seamlessly to make this mission a huge success, and the troops had an absolutely great time doing it. Thanks to the 2-149th GSAB for including the 436th ASG in this great project.



SMSgt Wes Pond works in the Santa Cop warehouse moving toys, clothes and food. This the second year that Airmen from the 436th ASG have worked on the Santa Cop project with the 2-149th GSAB.
Photo by SrA Andrea Seeds



Guardsmen from the 4th Regiment unfurl the Texas Flag during opening ceremonies at the 2011 Armed Forces Bowl at Gerald Ford Stadium on the Southern Methodist University campus.
Photo by WO1 Janet Schmelzer

Armed Forces Bowl Showcases Two TXSG Regiments in Opening Ceremony

Story by WO1 Janet Schmelzer
4th REGT Public Affairs Officer

UNIVERSITY PARK, Texas – Two regiments of soldiers from the Texas State Guard played an integral part in the opening ceremonies of the 9th Annual Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 30 at Southern Methodist University's Gerald Ford Stadium.

One hundred soldiers from the 4th and 19th Regiments participated by carrying the Texas flag (4th REGT) and the United States flag (19th REGT) onto the field. Each regiment simultaneously unfurled the giant flags.

The Silver Wings parachute demonstration team from Ft. Benning, Ga., invited Sergeant First Class Dana Bowman (TXSG 4REGT) to join them in their jump. SFC Bowman, who carried the U. S. and Texas flags as he floated down to the stadium turf, is a double amputee who lost his legs in a parachuting accident while in the U.S. Army.

The Fort Worth Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Joint Color Guard presented the colors.

Army Specialist Brenda Bushera sang the national anthem accompanied by the 36th Infantry Division Band. Both SPC Bushera and the 36th ID Band have recently returned from deployment in Iraq.

While the national anthem was played, Command Sergeant Majors Paul Kirk (4th REGT) and Roger Williams (19th REGT) saluted the colors for their respective regiments.

"The 4th Regiment is truly honored to have been a part of this event honoring the men and women who make great sacrifices to serve their country," com-

mented Colonel Howard N. Palmer, commander of the 4th Regiment.

Bell Helicopter provided complimentary tickets to TXSG personnel and their families to enjoy the contest between the Brigham Young University Cougars and the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricanes. TXSG personnel had a great day watching the game and enjoying hotdogs, corn dogs, nachos, and soft drinks.

The Tulsa Golden Hurricane led for most of the game but the BYU Cougars fought back and took the lead late in the fourth quarter. With the clock running down, BYU quarterback Riley Nelson called a diversion play. Nelson pretended to 'spike' the ball and caught the Golden Hurricane defense off guard, hitting Cougar Cody Hoffman for the go ahead touchdown with 11 seconds left on the clock. Tulsa fumbled the ball away on a last-ditch desperation pass, sealing the 24-21 victory for BYU.

Sergeant Steven Wilson and Corporal Mary Wilson made this a family event with their three children; Carlos, Isabel, and Samantha. "What a great way to spend time as a family by watching a great football game together," commented SGT Wilson. "We are very grateful to Bell Helicopter for including the 4th Regiment in these festivities."

During halftime ceremonies the Great American Patriot Award was presented to Medal of Honor recipient Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta.

Everyone was treated to a post-game concert by actor/musician Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. It was an all-round great day to honor those who serve in the armed forces.

CVS Pharmacies Partner with TXSG for Young Heroes of the Guard Toy Drive

CVS Pharmacy Arlington Store Manager Tom Gibbons (left) congratulates CPL Edward Thomas (right) on a successful 2011 toy drive as PFC Verlesha Bickems (rear) looks on. CVS was one of several corporations that partnered with the TXSG to collect donated toys for sick and injured children this Christmas season.

Photo courtesy of CVS Pharmacy



Chief Warrant Officer Gary Trott Awarded the Texas Outstanding Service Medal at TXSG Christmas Gala

Chief Warrant Officer Gary Trott is congratulated by Major General Ray Peters, Commander of the TXSG, on receiving the Texas Outstanding Service Medal. Also honored at the 2011 TXSG Christmas gala were Col Don Prince, Col Farrar Bentley, COL Robert Hasting, COL Paul Tressa, COL John Rodriguez, and Cdr. Dan Flynn.

Photo by SGM Steven Gamboa



Operation Lone Star 2011

While working on a security detail at the Palmview MPOD, SPC William Alford of the Tyler Medical Response Group saw a mother needing some help and he stepped in to lend a hand. SPC Alford held this patient's child while SGT Bonney of the Dallas/Fort Worth Medical Response Group tested her and her other child. Operation Lone Star is a collaborative medical services project that unites federal, state and county health and human service agencies, Texas Military Forces, local service groups and volunteers in one of the largest public health humanitarian efforts in the country.

Photo by SSG Mark Bomblatus



TMAR 2nd Battalion Conducts Major Disaster Simulation in New Braunfels

Story by ENS Frank S. Hooton
TMAR Public Affairs Officer

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas - A massive tornado has ripped through downtown New Braunfels destroying homes and rendering streets and entire neighborhoods unrecognizable.

This scenario is an all-too-familiar sight on television this year as destruction in Joplin, Missouri and Tuscaloosa, Alabama made national news when tornadoes destroyed major portions of those cities.

Fortunately, the New Braunfels tornado is a drill.

The Texas Maritime Regiment's 2nd Battalion is training for such a disaster. Arriving in New Braunfels at night, the troops were ordered to begin their Search and Rescue/Wilderness Rescue field

training exercise.

In the black of night, the Guardsmen performed a quick inspection of their rescue packs before deploying teams to designated coordinates where tornado damage was expected.

The teams checked critical infrastructure such as power lines and water mains looking for damage. Doing the exercise at night made the experience far more realistic for the troops.

As the crews descended upon the simulated disaster scenes they utilized their new training to radio in the discoveries and coordinates to the Incident Command Center, which plotted the destruction and managed team efforts.

The following day, teams deployed to daytime scenarios, including a very challenging navigation course which required a series

of detours to avoid the wrath of mesquite thickets.

Later, at Landa Park in downtown New Braunfels, 2nd battalion members, including the newly pinned dive rescue and recovery teams, took part in live simulation recovery and rescue missions. Each challenge was made more realistic by victim participants with simulated wounds and injuries to give a likely scene of what would be found during potential encounters.

Upon completion of the field maneuvers and disaster recovery simulations, all participants settled in for the final extensive written exam. Everyone passed!

Ooh-rah 2nd Battalion for a job well done!

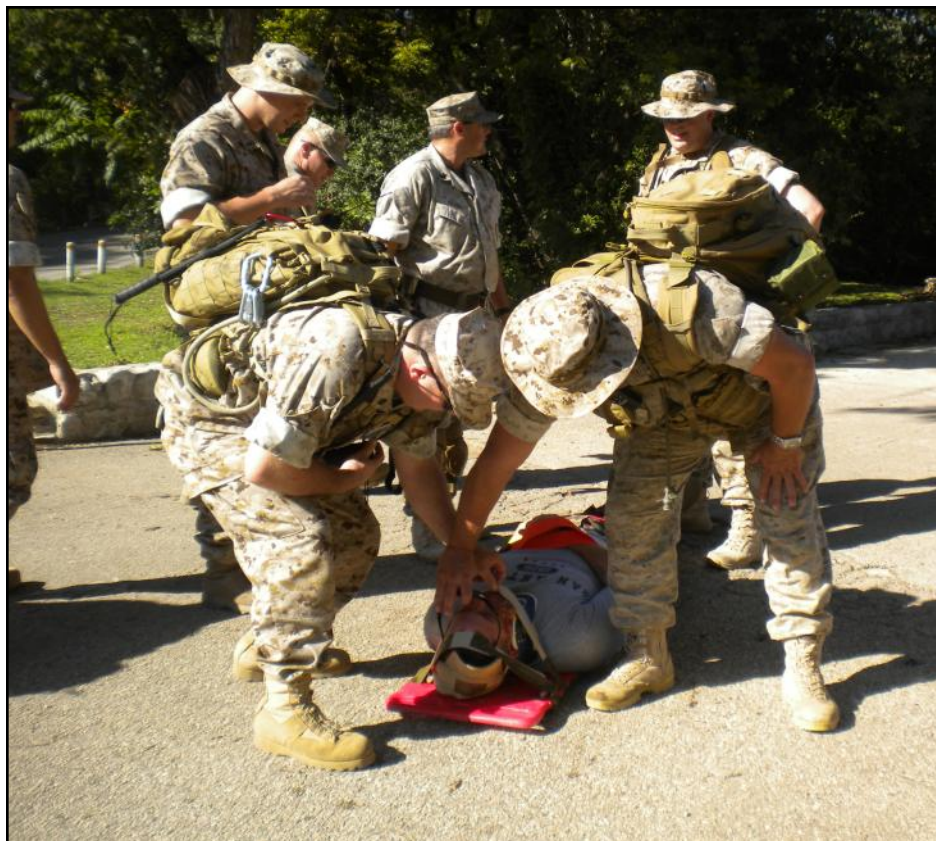
1st Regiment Serves Over 1000 Meals

During the 2011 holidays, nearly 1,000 meals were served by the 1st Regiment's 3rd Battalion in Harlingen.

Sergeant Samuel Layne, Jr., said the meals were served in conjunction with "Loaves and Fishes," a Harlingen-area homeless shelter during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Over Christmas, the battalion also provided more than 100 toys to underprivileged children as part of the meal.

Colonel Charles Brewton, commander of the 1st Regiment, said he was proud of his Soldiers' willingness to serve their community over the holidays. "The 3rd Battalion's good works over Thanksgiving and Christmas is a good reminder that the Texas State Guard exists to serve the families in our neighborhoods, in big and small ways," he said.

The battalion's holiday-focused activities also included distributing toys to the McDonald House as well as a local family crisis center.



"Victim" SCPO Gary Wilson is stabilized for evacuation by 2Bn members PO3 John Arnn, PO1 Jody McInnis, PO2 Brian McDougal, SN Leo Plotini, SN Robert Johnson and PO2 Mark Wilson.
 Photo by ENS Frank Hooton



SGT Eddie Lack instructing RBOT trainees on Land Navigation (left to right) PFC Donald Larimore, PFC Brian Robinson, PFC Bailey Phillips, PFC William Hightower, and SGT Eddie Lack at Shoreview Armory
Photo by PFC Whitney Tilson

Serving as One, Second to None! 36 Trainees Graduate RBOT Class

**Story by PFC David Steward and
WO1 Janet Schmelzer
4th REGT Public Affairs**

FT. WORTH, Texas - The Texas State Guard (TXSG) welcomed 32 new Regional Basic Orientation Training (RBOT) graduates on Nov. 6, 2011. These Guardsmen began their RBOT in September under the watchful eyes of Sergeant First Class Freddrik Taylor (RBOT NCOIC) and the rest of the RBOT cadre.

When RBOT began, the trainees were nervous because they did not know what to expect. Spending one weekend a month together for three months, the trainees learned what a soldier needs to know to be a part of the TXSG and to face the challenges when called upon to deploy.

That common thread of facing the unexpected began the team building process on the first morning of RBOT. Trainees quickly developed camaraderie by swapping stories and helping each other, as Private First Class Whitney Tilson amusingly noted, "set up the tricky cots."

That first weekend of RBOT the trainees came up with their motto--"Serving as One, Second to None! HOOAHH!" They shouted their motto proudly every time they were called to attention.

This RBOT class began a new tradition; presenting each member of the training cadre with a tan T-shirt with their class motto on the back and the TXSG emblem on the front, to show their respect and appreciation for the cadre.

The RBOT Honor graduate was Private First Class Roy Weide of Addison. Like so many other TXSG sol-

diers, he wanted to "provide a service to the citizens of Texas. If you ask anyone who knows me they will say that I am always willing to go out of my way to help."

A former Arlington Police Officer, PFC Weide is now a Security Officer and Patient Care Technician in the emergency room at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano. He is also a certified EMT, Peace Officer, and holds law enforcement and medical-related instructor certifications from CPR/First Aid to defensive tactics and weapons.

While at Angelo State University, PFC Weide was in ROTC, the Arnold Air Honor Society and Civil Air Patrol. "All the men in my family have served in the US Armed Forces and I joined the TXSG to carry on that tradition," he explained. PFC Weide and his wife Diana have four children; Carlos, Alexis, Jolie, and Colton.

RBOT was a team effort for two of the trainees. Private First Class Timothy Liberto and Private First Class Traci Liberto, a husband and wife duo, enlisted and went through RBOT together.

"We joined because we were looking for a place to serve and we wanted to stay in Texas," explained PFC Tim Liberto; a biology teacher and golf coach at Ponder Independent School District. PFC Traci Liberto recently retired as a child support probation officer and runs the family business in Krum. They have three children, Gina 25, Will 20, and Emily 18.

All 32 trainees made new friends, became soldiers, and were ready to go to their units as "Texans Serving Texans." For them, this RBOT was one to remember.

TXSG Marks Opening of New Armed Forces Reserve Center

**Story and photo by COL Robert Morecook
Medical Brigade Public Affairs Officer**

TYLER, Texas – Members of the Texas State Guard participated in the opening ceremony of a new \$24.5 million Armed Forces Reserve Center in Tyler on Sep. 17. Opened six days after the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the 120,000 square-foot center will replace smaller, obsolete centers in the area.

U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Tyler, spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, thanking the reservists and guard members for their service and commitment to the country. “You are what stands between us and those who would bring this country down,” Rep. Gohmert said.

Tyler’s new reserve center has been in the works for about three years since the September 2008 passage of an expansive \$10.8 billion security and disaster assistance bill that included the appropriation of



State Rep. Leo Berman (COL Berman – TXSG – Left) and U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert (right) cut the ribbon at the new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Tyler.

\$29 million for the East Texas military reservist station.

State Rep. Leo Berman, R-Tyler, a Colonel in the Texas State Guard, spoke about East Texas’ ‘love affair’ with the military that he said can be seen daily at welcome home rallies for soldiers. He highlighted the region’s patriotism with examples of important facilities named for and used by the military.

The 136th Military Police Battalion and the 141st Quarter Master Battalion (Texas Army National Guard), the 721st Engineering Detachment (U.S. Army Reserve) and the Tyler Medical Response Group (TXSG) will share the facility. The Tyler Medical Response Group (MRG) will share drill dates with the 136th Military Police Battalion, a unit with which they have enjoyed a close working relationship for the past several years.

Brigadier General Luis Fernandez, MD, commanding general, TXSG Medical Brigade, and Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan MacClements, MD, commanding officer of the Tyler Medical Response Group, attended the ceremony with other members of the Tyler MRG.

The new center sits on 15 acres and features a central facility containing classrooms, conference rooms, an auditorium, a family room and office space. A storage building and a vehicle maintenance facility is offset from the main center.

Following the ceremony, the center opened to the public for a tour and reception. Ed Morbant, 68, of Tyler, sat in one of the large gathering rooms, taking the facility in. “We need to give our soldiers the best that there is, and this is it,” Morbant said. He said he came to support the Army and the soldiers “who are out doing what needs to be done. It’s an honor to be here amongst them.”

Melissa Crowe of TylerPaper.com contributed to this story.



LTC Phil King is congratulated by MG Ray Peters on receiving the Texas Outstanding Service Medal. The award was presented at the 2011 TXSG Christmas Ball in Austin.

Photo by SGM Steven Gamboa

TXSG Officers Groom and Mold Aggies into Future Leaders

**Story and photos by MAJ Michael Quinn Sullivan
Army Component Public Affairs Officer**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - For nearly 140 years the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets has been providing more officers to the United States Armed Forces than any institution besides the service academies. Just as importantly, graduates of the Corps have developed into leaders throughout the Lone Star State.

The training of those leaders has rested for the last 30 years, in no small part, on the shoulders of two officers from the Texas State Guard.

In the school's early days, participation in the Corps was mandatory for the all-male student population. That changed nearly 50 years ago, but the Corps of Cadets remains the most visible component of the Texas A&M family. And the Corps, like Texas

A&M itself, has continued to evolve.

There Have Been Changes

Former students – ol' Ags – bemoan whatever changes have occurred since their days in the cadet uniform.

"Yes there have been changes, big changes," says TXSG Lieutenant Colonel Jay Brewer, Senior Associate Director of the world-renowned Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. "What's changed is that it's better."

LTC Brewer should know. He entered Texas A&M as an Aggie Band cadet in 1977. Upon graduation in 1981, he was set to move west and take a job with John Deere, applying his degree in Mechanized Agriculture. Instead, a last-minute call from then – director, Lieutenant Colonel Joe Haney, changed his life's direction.

"They needed some help, so I never left. I was at the right place, at the right time," says LTC Brewer. Unlike other college bands, even the military academies' bands, the Aggie Band is a full military unit within the Corps of Cadets.

The students live and breathe the cadet life 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But they are, after all, students – most still teenagers living away from home for the first time.

That transition, as well as the cadets' formal training, is overseen by military officers and NCOs – active-duty and retired – working under the auspices of the Office of the Commandant. Since LTC Brewer had not followed a path to contract with one of the services, he – like his mentor, LTC Haney – entered the Texas State Guard.

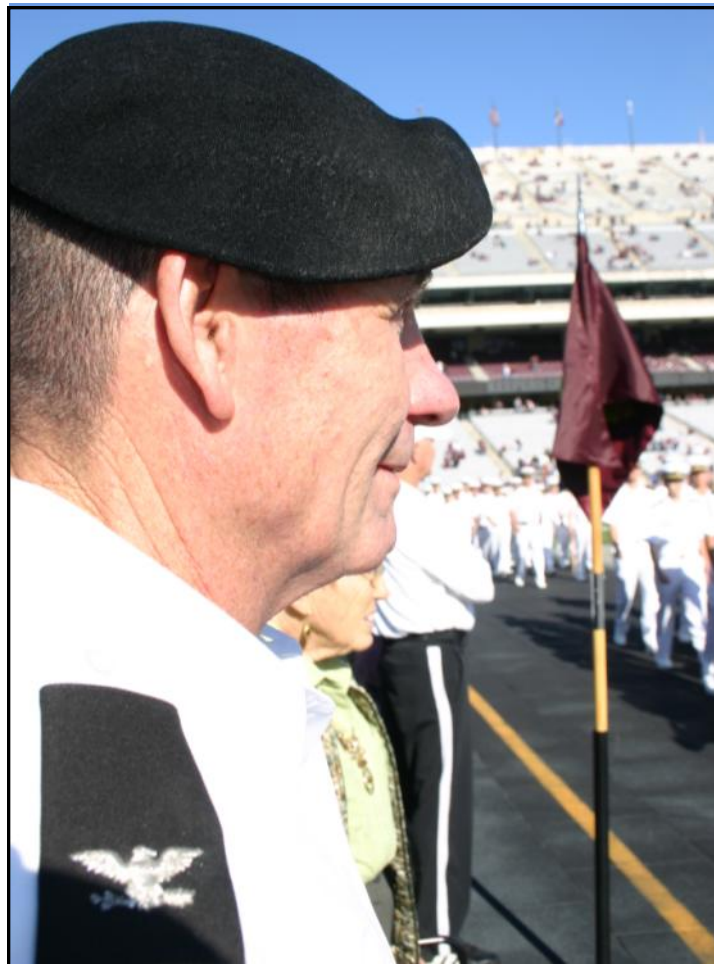
LTC Brewer started out in the 223rd Military Police Battalion, eventually serving as its commander. "Of course, I think I was on active duty a total of like three days."

Nevertheless, LTC Brewer is in uniform more than most guardsmen, representing the Texas State Guard in what is a very visible position.

"I'm honored to put on that uniform and I wear it with pride," LTC Brewer beamed.

Also working with the Texas Aggie Band and serving in the Texas State Guard are Lieutenant Colonel Tim Rhea, director of bands at Texas A&M, and associate band director, Captain Travis Almany.

"A&M and the Corps are doing a very good, purposeful job of preparing kids to enter a more competitive, and complicated, world than many of us ever imagined," says LTC Brewer. "I'd like to think we're training people to be productive citizens. In this envi-



TXSG COL Jake Betty watches cadets march past the reviewing stand before a home game at Kyle Field. The deputy commandant also serves as director of TXSG's education institute.



TXSG LTC Jay O. Brewer says that in working with cadets he is training them "to be productive citizens."

ronment, we have the opportunity to train people to stand on their own two feet and speak with confidence and excitement."

The Business Of Leadership

Unlike his colleague, TXSG Colonel Jake Betty didn't have the opportunity to stay at Texas A&M after graduation in 1973. Instead, he spent time in the US Army, including a posting to Aggieland for a period, and then later owned a business in Lubbock.

In 1988, COL Betty returned to the campus as a cadet training officer before overseeing recruiting and serving as interim-commandant. Today, he is the Corps' Deputy Commandant and Chief of Staff.

"We're in the business of developing young men and women who will be leaders," says COL Betty. "Our mission is to educate leaders of character, to provide values-based leadership to the state and nation."

Like LTC Brewer, he calls it an "evolving process." In years past, leadership training happened "accidentally," says COL Betty. "There wasn't a systemic approach to developing leadership skills. Whatever happened, happened."

In the early 1990s, the Corps and university leadership recognized they were wasting an opportunity. Today, cadets take 12 hours of academic coursework and must successfully participate in projects designed to foster leadership traits and experiences. Cadets who complete the program receive a certification that is affixed to their diplomas and official

college transcript.

"We're an academic department, in addition to being the Corps of Cadets," says COL Betty. "We're bringing in new courses and tying into other colleges on campus."

COL Betty says that despite the Corps' military orientation, the focus goes beyond "just the military." In fact, only about 43 percent of the cadets will go into the armed forces. Betty noted that Texas A&M is the largest provider of graduates to the Central Intelligence Agency of any university in the nation.

"So we're developing leadership programs designed to help these young people prepare for working in an agency, as well as in the military and corporate America," COL Betty adds. "Leadership is the same wherever you go; it's often just a different set of techniques, and knowing when to use which."

Specific Improvement

In the TXSG, COL Betty serves as the Director of the Education Institute, responsible for Basic Orientation Training (BOT), Professional Military Education (PME), and Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS).

"We have to grow our own coursework," says COL Betty. "We need to make sure our training is specific to our mission in the State Guard."

Both men say they see they appreciate that the Texas State Guard, like the Corps of Cadets, is intent on purposeful improvement of already strong programs.

"I think the TXSG is doing more things on purpose," says LTC Brewer. "The expansion of the Guard has attracted a lot more professionals into the ranks."

COL Betty says he believes many of today's cadets will find their way into tomorrow's TXSG for a simple reason: "This notion of serving the state in the guard, the sense of the camaraderie and completing a mission, it all just makes sense."



TXSG LTC Tim Rhea, Ph.D., here with drum major Mark Jessup before kick-off at a home game, is one of several TXSG officers overseeing the development of future leaders in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.



SFC Bowman Opens Armed Forces Bowl with a Jump

Sergeant First Class Dana Bowman (TXSG 4REGT) parachutes into the SMU Stadium with the Silver Wings demonstration team from Ft. Benning, Ga., during opening ceremonies of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 30. The Silver Wings invited SFC Bowman to make the jump with them. SFC Bowman carried the U. S. and Texas flags as he floated down to the stadium turf. SFC Bowman is a double amputee. He lost his legs in a parachuting accident while serving in the U.S. Army.

Photo by WO1 Janet Schmelzer

Trinity Mother Frances Trains Tyler MRG on Helo Safety

The November drill for the Tyler Medical Response Group included a training session in helicopter landing zone preparation and safety. Special instruction in hand signals was provided by CW4 William Carter. Trinity Mother Frances Flight for Life personnel educated soldiers in the operational features of the EC-145 helicopter, emphasizing proper safety measures for personnel operating in or near an emergency landing zone. CPT Allen E. Rush demonstrates hand signals guiding the TMF Flight for Life helicopter to a safe landing at the hospital pad.

Photo by 1LT George Owens



TXSG Snags a Couple of First Class Recruits

Private First Class Timothy Liberto and Private First Class Traci Liberto, a husband and wife duo, recently enlisted and went through RBOT together. "We joined because we were looking for a place to serve and we wanted to stay in Texas," explained PFC Timothy Liberto; a biology teacher and golf coach at Ponder Independent School District. PFC Traci Liberto recently retired as a child support probation officer and now runs their family business in Krum. RBOT was a team effort for these two trainees.

Photo by WO1 Janet Schmelzer

Texas Maritime Regiment Marks Five Years of Service with Birthday Gala

Story and photo by ENS Frank Hooton
TMAR Public Affairs Officer

The Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) threw itself a birthday gala. Held in Austin Nov. 12, the TMAR Ball celebrated five years of active duty service as a component of the Texas State Guard (TXSG).

Formed in 2006, TMAR serves as the Brown Water Navy of the Texas State Guard, and has deployed to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dean, Dolly, Gustav and Alex over the past four years; as well as the Texas-Mexico border to support federal, state and local law enforcement operations.

Colonel Brian Smallwood handled Master of Ceremonies duties and TMAR Commander, Brigadier General Robert J. Bodisch, addressed the state of the regiment. Texas State Guard Executive Director and Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Charles Miller, delivered the key note address.

Over 150 people attended the festivities, including four flag officers.

As the TMAR Regimental Band played, recognition for outstanding effort was passed along to key personnel including Senior NCO of the year award recipient Staff Sergeant Robert Lewis. Corporal Bradley Gose was named Junior NCO of the year.

This year's celebration recognized the new Search and Rescue Dive teams, as well as improvements in core competencies such as bulldozer and boat operations.

The Texas Maritime Regiment has a mission to provide highly trained military personnel for Defense Support to Civil authorities (DSCA), for operations in the maritime, littoral and riverine environments in support of homeland defense and in response to man-made or natural disasters.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday TMAR for a job well done!



BG Robert J Bodisch (rear) cuts TMAR's ceremonial birthday cake, assisted by MCPO Gary Parker. The cake was homemade by PO1 Michelle Gish of TMAR's 2nd BN.



First Choice Power Donates 200 Toys for Young Heroes of the Guard Toy Drive

WO1 John Gorena is pictured with several employees from First Choice Power in Lewisville. First Choice employees donated more than 200 toys. "We are proud to support the Texas State Guard and bring the holidays to kids who need a little extra holiday spirit," said Lake Scalise, manager of First Choice Power in Lewisville.

Photo courtesy of First Choice Power

Strike Up the Band! TMAR Band a Rare Find

Story by WO1 Fred San Roman
Unit Public Affairs Representative

AUSTIN, Texas – It's a fact: the Texas Maritime Regiment (TMAR) is special! TMAR is the only component of the Texas State Guard to have its own Regimental Band, and one of only three State Defense Forces in the nation to have Regimental Bands.

The TMAR Band got its start in the spring of 2010. Petty Officer First Class Martha Ellis was searching the internet for a state guard band when she came in contact with Commander Jerry Hill who mentioned that TMAR was looking to form a marching band.

PO1 Ellis expressed an interest in forming a band to Warrant Officer Fred San Roman who began rounding up musicians and brought them together for an organizational meeting at Camp Mabry. The TMAR Band was born.

Currently the band practices once a month at an armory in south Texas. Many of the musicians are prior service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bands. The band gave its first performance at TMAR Annual Training 2010 at Camp Swift.

Even though the TMAR Band is small in numbers, there is representation from each instrument family in the band, making it fully operational for performances. The band performs some of the great

marches from John Phillip Sousa along with Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine songs.

Recently, the Regimental Band was an integral part of TMAR's 5th Anniversary Ball held Nov. 12 in Austin. The TMAR Band played music during the reception; performed Ruffles and Flourishes for the entrance of attending Flag Officers; played the National Anthem; accompanied the invocation with the Navy Hymn and closed the evening with songs from all branches of service.

We look forward to many years of great music from the TMAR Band!



MSgt Matt Balboa directs the Texas Maritime Regiment Band at TMAR's recent 5th Anniversary Ball in Austin.

Photo By ENS Frank Hooton

19th Regiment Rocks California Crossing Armory With CERT

Story by MAJ Ray Feagins
19th REGT Public Affairs Officer

DALLAS - It was a quiet and sleepy morning on the tree-lined banks of the Trinity River. Rain from an approaching storm was already pelting the area when the ground began to violently shake from a rare, but not unheard of, North Texas earthquake.

The Hotel California Crossing, a 50-year-old structure, began to shake violently and a fire started in the kitchen. Meanwhile, a collapsed wall and falling debris trapped individuals in the atrium.

In all, 120 victims – many with urgent-care needs – were involved, from infants to the elderly, from athletes to the disabled.

As you've probably already guessed, this was an exercise.

The hotel was actually the California Crossing

Armory, home of the 19th Regiment, and the scenario was the backdrop for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training (IS-317).

Soldiers were put through their paces by three instructors from the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management CERT program. The in-



Victim Antonio Barajas shows off the wounds he received. Photo by Les Hall

structors -- Chris Herzog, Doug Frazier and Margaret Martinez -- had volunteered for a three-day weekend to teach CERT to 80 members of the 19th Regiment.

Adding realism to the training were nearly 130 volunteers from the Dallas area who participated as victims, including Boy Scouts, TXSG family members, other area CERT members and their families, as well as PCI medical field students.

These "victims" were given theatrical-grade *moulage*, (mock injuries for the purpose of training) including compound fractures, deep gashes and lacerations, air brushed bruises, debris punctures (embedded glass shards, re-bar), burn victims with sloughing off skin, and one victim with spurting arterial bleeding.

TXSG personnel established an Incident Command Post, assigned search-and-rescue

teams, and dealt with a flurry of scenario updates. From fire control to the creation of a temporary morgue, Soldiers were forced to put the learned protocols to practical use.

CERT instructor Doug Frasier said training the TXSG was a special honor for him, knowing the kind of work the Soldiers are willing to perform.

"The Guard is comprised of an exemplary group of men and women," said Frasier. "Texans who volunteer to undergo inconvenience, expense and hardship in order to take care of their fellow citizens, and who are ready at any time to leave behind comfort and family and to go forward into the unknown in order to

make life better for the rest of us in times of peril."

The training was one of the largest mass-casualty simulations in Dallas, or the North Texas region, this year.

Staff Sergeant Jack Snow, whose civilian job is heading Johnson County's Emergency Management department, said the CERT training will be a benefit not only in his TXSG duties, but in his professional responsibilities as well.

"It has given me new inspiration to develop CERT in Johnson

County," said SSG Snow. "It is my belief that all members of the Texas State Guard should be afforded the opportunity to attend CERT training."

The City of Dallas provided additional assets from the Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department and Police Department as part of the training scenario, while several businesses donated supplies



PFC Aaron Allen (left) and PFC Nathan Carr help serious burn victim Diane to treatment as part of the CERT scenario. Photo by Les Hall

"I've Never Heard of the Texas State Guard"

DALLAS -- "Honestly, I'd never heard of the Texas State Guard."

Margaret Martinez says that when she was asked to provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training to the 19th Regiment earlier this year, she had to know more.

"Prior to any training I do, I like to research my audience, so I Googled the Texas State Guard. Needless to say, I was very surprised and impressed," she added. "I was impressed by the level of knowledge about the subject matter before we even delivered the course."

Martinez, who has lived in Texas for 24 years, grew up in a military family; her father and brothers served in the US Army. "Diplomas from Virginia Military Institute graced our walls, and pictures of Hueys, Cobras, and all kinds of tanks hung everywhere else."

Rather than follow her family into the military, though, Martinez pursued studies in foreign languages but says she always felt she had missed her "true calling."

"When I learned that the Texas State Guard did not require prior military experience and the age requirement was extended, I was there," said Martinez, who works in Carrollton for the city manager. "I especially liked the area of Civil Affairs, as it included things I already enjoy doing."

So she joined this fall. "The rest is history," Private First Class Martinez exclaimed!

PFC Martinez joined the 19th Regiment's 1st Battalion. The regiment's senior NCO, Command Sergeant Major Rodger Williams, says bringing in recruits like PFC Martinez is important.

"She comes with a great deal of very specialized knowledge, but more importantly she comes with a real passion to serve the people of Texas," said CSM Williams. "The TXSG, and the Parsons' Brigade, is only as strong as the men and women who wear the uniform. I'm proud to have PFC Martinez in our ranks."

— MAJ Ray Feagins, 19th REGT Public Affairs Officer



1LT McCauley presents folded Texas Flag to LTC George Hale's widow Jeanie Hale and their daughter Sheila after memorial service.

19th REGT Honors LTC George Hale, Served Texas State Guard 42 Years

**Story and photo by MAJ Ray Feagins
19th REGT Public Affairs Officer**

DALLAS - A memorial service was held on Dec. 11, 2011 for the passing of one of the Texas State Guard's most dedicated members, Lieutenant Colonel George Hale. The service was held at the California Crossing Armory in Dallas in conjunction with the 19th Regiment's (CA) Family Day and Award Presentation.



More than 260 Soldiers, family members and friends attended and were treated to fond stories of LTC Hale's exploits with the Texas State Guard over the course of 42 years. He had served in both the 4th and 19th Regiments, and had been the commander of the 1/19th.

Professionally, LTC Hale served as a deputy sheriff and held a variety of other law enforcement and security positions throughout his life.

During the service, orders were posted posthumously promoting Major Hale to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and awarding him the Texas Medal of Merit.

Colonel David Erinakes and Sergeant Major Bill Campbell recalled stories about deployments and Annual Training events, while recalling LTC Hale's determination to attend drill despite obstacles or pain. Lieutenant Colonel Troy Nesbitt, current commander of the 1/19th, provided rousing words as he rallied the 1st battalion in final cheers for LTC Hale.

Presentation Orders, the Medal of Merit, a picture of a younger MAJ Hale matted in Military Police Green, a folded US flag and a Texas flag flown over the Capitol were presented to LTC Hale's widow, Jeanie Hale and their daughter, Sheila.

"This Memorial Service was a fitting and proper demonstration of our respect and love for a soldier of the State of Texas," said SGM Bill Campbell. "Colonel Erinakes and Chaplain Vick provided invaluable help and assistance in coordinating the ceremony. It was a privilege to lead the effort to recognize LTC Hale's service."



Wingstop Restaurants Select Young Heroes of the Guard Toy Drive

Sergeant Steven Hilliard thanks Chris Lemond of Wingstop Restaurants, who just dropped off donated toys at the Randol Mill Armory. SSG Steven Hilliard contacted Mr. Lemond at Wingstop Restaurants' corporate headquarters in Richardson about the toy drive. Wingstop selected the "Young Heroes of the Guard" as its annual charity. They provided 430 toys and donated \$500 to the 4th Regiment to assist with the project. Wingstop's Lemond commented that "charitable works go beyond the toy drive throughout the year."

Photo by WO1 Janet Schmelzer

Medical Brigade Trains for Bombing Incidents

**Story and photo by COL Robert Morecook
Medical Brigade Public Affairs Officer**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - Fifty three soldiers and airmen of the Texas Medical Brigade and federal military forces gathered this past November for two days of intensive training in Medical Preparedness and Response for Bombing Incidents.

The specialized medical educational experience was organized by the Alamo Medical Response Group and funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

State of the art training came from instructors provided by the Texas Engineering Extension Service of Texas A&M University and New Mexico Tech. Training took place at the UT Health Science Center Medical School in San Antonio.

Most servicemen attending were from the Southern Command of the Medical Brigade, especially the

Alamo Group, but members of the U.S. Air Force Reserve and U.S. Army also attended.

The training focused on medical response to bombing incidents, but covered a variety of related topics, including, how to identify terrorist targets, understanding explosives and their characteristics, and pre-attack indicators.

Further training focused on recognition of special injuries found on bombing victims and triage and treatment of the victims' injuries.

Training included strategic and operational considerations and resource management after bombing emergencies, and concluded with tabletop exercises for the participants.

As a token of thanks, Colonel Michael Champion, former commander of the Alamo Medical Response Group, presented Texas State Guard coins to the guest trainers.



'So, What do You do All Weekend?'

4th REGT Holds Family Day and Drill

Story by WO1 Janet Schmelzer
4th Regiment Public Affairs Officer

ARLINGTON, Texas – "So, what do you do all day when you're at drill?"

How many TXSG members have heard this from their spouse or a family member after spending all weekend training? Most Guardsmen have heard this question at one time or another.

The 4th Regiment decided to show their family and friends what happens when the regiment trains or is deployed. They planned a disaster exercise that would have two objectives; be a training opportunity for the troops and educate their families that Guardsmen are trained to handle any situation.

What a great way to have a drill and a family day at the same time!

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Arlington was the site of the disaster drill and family day last Nov. 19. Family members and friends of the Guardsmen participated by playing the roles of displaced persons in need of shelter and mass care following a disaster.

As guests arrived, each person checked in, received a wristband, and was registered into the Texas Emergency Tracking Network (TETN).

A list of shelter rules was posted by the door. Sign-in and sign-out sheets allowed guests to come and go from the shelter. Then family members and friends were shown a model shelter; room with cots, tables and chairs, a kitchen and a medical room, and the Tactical Operations Center (TOC).

Mess operations were onsite with catered barbeque. "We considered serving MREs (Meals Ready to Eat)," Warrant Officer Robert Gustavsen joked.

Outside around the church, families went to different areas each with a specific disaster scenario, such as downed electrical lines, broken water mains, or missing persons. This allowed the Quick Response Team (QRT) to conduct Wide Area Damage Assessment (WADA) training.

Maggie Rose Gallagher, daughter of Captain Karl Gallagher, said her favorite part of the day was "when everyone went out in a straight line looking for stuff."

The Regiment demonstrated Point of Distribution (POD) operations with personal vehicles lining up to receive supplies.



4th Regiment personnel check in guests, register them into ETN, and place a wristband on each one.

Photo by WO1 James Smith

In addition to these operations, a Carter Mobile Blood Bank was onsite so volunteers could donate blood.

Inside the church, family and guests observed a fully functional TOC. They saw shelter status boards, radio communications, personnel processing, and command operations.

Children were given the opportunity to participate in some of the activities. One popular area in the TOC was communications where Warrant Officer John Gorena showed family and guests the new radio equipment for the regiment. "People love to talk on the radio and I enjoyed showing them how it worked," commented WO1 Gorena.

Another room in the church was set aside as a children's playroom. Personnel brought toys and games and the children stayed very busy. And a raffle, where children won toys, made the event even more fun and exciting.

When two people experienced real medical issues, regiment personnel went into action. Private First Class Roy Weide, an EMT, along with WO1 John Gorena, Sergeant Gary Harvel, and Chaplain Jerald Garner provided immediate aid.

By the end of the exercise, everyone had learned something new. The guests better understood the role and operations of the regiment and the regiment found a fun way to train for a deployment.

"For the 4th Regiment, every opportunity is a training opportunity," said Warrant Officer James Smith. And those are important words to remember in our service in the TXSG.



Jamie Gallagher in his dad's reflective vest.

Photo by CPT K. Gallagher

Resolve to Commit in 2012

**Story by Chaplain (MAJ) David J. Fair, PhD
Chaplain Coordinator, Texas State Guard**

I'm guessing you are much like me. Every year, year after year, I make New Year's Resolutions. I make at least 10 of them. Let's see; I am 65 now and have been making them since I was at least 15. That's 50 years of resolutions. And if I do 10 a year that means I have made 500 New Year's Resolutions.

I'm not going into how many months, or should I say weeks, I have stuck with them. Needless to say, by the end of January, most of us have given up and vow to try it again next year.

The dictionary says a resolution is a firm decision to do or not do something.

A firm decision sounds pretty weak to me. It's a decision and we change decisions all the time; daily, even hourly. It's no wonder resolutions seem to have no real staying

power.

What's that old story about the chicken and the pig. If you are cooking ham and eggs, it's the pig who really made the commitment, the full commitment. Not the chicken.

Let's look at the definition of commitment as opposed to resolution.

The dictionary defines commit as a pledge or binding to a certain course or policy.

Pledge is an interesting word. We often call the Pledge of Allegiance simply the Pledge. And when he recite or say the Pledge we place our hand over our heart.

So one could say a resolution is a head matter while a commitment is a heart matter.

The word bind means to tie or fasten something tightly. That's pretty strong. That's a commitment.

I think it is pretty clear that a pledge is much stronger than a resolution. Perhaps that's why we don't tend to keep New Year's Resolutions. Maybe we should call them New Year's Commitments.

As we walk through life we have plenty of chances every day to make resolutions or commitments about things. I submit to you resolving to do something doesn't carry nearly the weight of committing to do something.

A good example is marriage. Two people make a commitment more than just a simple pledge. The minister binds them together under God.

I'm not saying a resolution has no place in life. Certainly it does. But I do believe commit or commitment is the stronger of the two.

What if this year we made commitments rather than resolutions and kept at the forefront of our mind the real meaning of the two?

I believe if we really understand commitment then we are going to keep those commitments far better than a simple resolution which is only a strong decision to do or not do something.

Do you want to be a man or woman of your word? Do you want to have a good reputation in your family, business or community? Then I urge you to start making commitments to do things.

A commitment is binding. It's the tie that binds. It's a matter of the heart and not the head.

All through the Bible people got into trouble for failing to keep commitments. But there were many more blessed for keeping them.

I want to be blessed. I want that good reputation. So this year I'm going to make 10 New Year's Commitments. Want to join me?



Parsons' Brigade Replica Battle Flag Given to 19th Regiment Commander

A full-size replica of the original 19th Texas Cavalry Regiment's battle flag was recently presented to Col. David Erinakes by his executive officer, Lt. Col. Barry Hobbs, a descendent of one of the Civil War era unit's men. The Parsons' Brigade, a Confederate brigade during the Civil War, served as cavalry for the Army of the Trans-Mississippi. The detailed and hand-stitched replica was created by 1st Sgt. Daniel Dzivi, based on his research and work with an original 19th Regiment battle flag. Pictured holding the flag are: (L-R) 1SG Dan Dzivi, COL David Erinakes and SGT Kenneth Connelly.

Photo by CPT Esperanza Meza



19th Regiment Works to Integrate Family Life with Unit Mission

**Story and photos by CPT Esperanza Meza
19th REGT Public Affairs Officer**

DALLAS – Throughout the year, the Texas State Guard's 19th Regiment works to integrate family members into the life and work of the unit. Using special events, whether it was the solemnity of the 10-year observance of 9/11 or a holiday "Family Day" at the armory, soldiers and their families take the opportunity to socialize and reflect together.

This is an important part of building morale, said Master Sergeant Phillip Starr, who donned a TXSG-themed holiday disguise as part of the "Family Day" festivities in early December.



Anji Mounger, wife of SGT Christopher Mounger, sets up the food table while Diane Browning, wife of MSG John Browning, prepares the setting.

Starr's "Master Sergeant Claus" assisted by a Sergeant Elf (Sergeant Keith Bates) distributed toys to the children of the 19th Regiment's Soldiers. More than 260 personnel and family members attended the event. "It takes a lot of effort to put together an event like Family Day, but it was worth every bit to see everyone enjoying themselves," said MSG Starr, the 19th's S-3. "It was especially rewarding to have the kids get to visit Santa and see the smiles."



Children line up for a contest during the 19th Regiment's Family Day activities.



MSG Santa Claus (MSG Phil Starr-left) and SGT Elf (SGT Keith Bates-right) pose with containers of toys headed for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

There were fewer smiles earlier in the year, when the 19th hosted a somber memorial recognizing the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"We wanted to honor those who were on the planes, in the towers and in the Pentagon, as well as the police officers, fire fighters, EMS and others who were altruistic; running into danger to help while oth-



SGT Elf (SGT Keith Bates) helps MSG Santa Claus (MSG Philip Starr) with gift selection for the children waiting for Santa.

ers were running out," said Chaplain Major Dale Vick. "We also wanted to honor our brave soldiers who in the last 10 years have given their lives for the cause of freedom."

Regardless of the occasion, MSG Starr said bringing the families of the 19th Regiment together is imperative for "bonding into a cohesive unit. It means getting together and letting the families meet the troops that their guard members are always talking about," explained MSG Starr. "These events can be just as important as our military training."